

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. ELLIS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen, Mr. John M. Ellis, of Sacramento, CA.

John began his career March 3, 1966 with the U.S. Army at the Sacramento Army Depot and in 1969 transferred to the U.S. Air Force at McClellan AFB, CA. After 33 years of dedicated Federal service he is retiring on April 30, 1999.

John is among the most successful and tireless advocates of Federal managers and his success is widely acknowledged. He has a widespread and richly deserved reputation as a passionately involved caretaker of federal employees. Through his personal efforts, Federal workers in the Sacramento area knew that someone was fighting for their cause. His colleagues recognized his strong leadership and vision and chose him to serve in a long list of distinguished elected positions.

Few people have given to their community with the vision and commitment that John offered to us. He founded the McClellan Defense Task Force (MDTF) in early 1992. The task force organized local community letter writing campaigns and produced almost 400,000 letters supporting McClellan AFB. He personally delivered 127,000 letters to Department of Defense Secretary Les Aspin and 270,000 letters to the BRAC commission during their hearings on Capitol Hill in 1995.

During his career, John became known as an expert on base closures and Federal employees' issues by many local Sacramento radio and television stations. He was a highly sought after panelist for interviews and logged many hours on live and taped, local and national television and even international radio. John always shared his time and knowledge, and made many appearances as a guest speaker at local schools, societies, and government agencies.

He founded the Alliance of Government Managers (AGM) at the beginning of 1987 to protest Federal managers pay, entitlements and benefits. John's organization also included an emphasis on participation and worked to support beneficial legislation and programs, avert destructive administration issues, and promote Federal managers' prosperity and public harmony.

John served as president of Chapter 77, Federal Managers Association for 5 years. During his tenure, he implemented many innovative programs and provided members with an unprecedented level of support. He never hesitated to go to any means necessary when his members needed help. John received a Gold Card (lifetime) membership from the Federal Managers Association for his extraordinary leadership in their organization. The extremely selective nature of this award may not be immediately apparent, but some of us know how few in the history of FMA have earned this level of gratitude.

In 1983, John cofounded the Nor-Cal Federal Coalition (NCFC) and became their first President. The NCFC offered Federal labor unions and management groups an outlet for common interest matters. Through his efforts with the many organizations he founded and

presided over, John consistently championed the rights of Federal employees to make a stronger more united Federal community.

John never settled for anything less than his best. He is a friend, a successful Federal manager, a political activist, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and an inspiration to thousands of people in and around Sacramento, CA.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to John on his very distinguished career and I wish him and his family my best. Although we will sorely miss his presence, we wish him great success in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JULIA A. KRASCHNEWSKI

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a student from my Congressional District in Wisconsin, Julia Kraschnewski. Julia is senior at Burlington High School, and she is the winner of the VFW's 1999 Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest for the state of Wisconsin. Julia wrote about an experience she had while volunteering at a local nursing home and the effect that experience had upon her life. Julia is no stranger to civic and student activities. She has been involved in 4-H, Student Council, Girls State and Girls Nation, and she is the current Miss Burlington. Julia is truly an example for students all across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Julia's winning script for the RECORD.

I walked into the nursing home that day, with no idea of what I was getting into. What I would say? How I would act around elderly people? Would I be matched with someone specific? Soon I was paired with a short old man in a plaid shirt. The caretaker told me that this man's name was Roy. I wheeled Roy down to the Activity Room, not sure of what to say. When we got to the room, we both set up our BINGO cards and prepared to play. "B-5" said the lady behind the head table. Roy gave me a shy smile as I helped him place a little red chip on the card.

It has been said, "The purpose of life is life with a purpose." What better purpose is there than to serve—to help someone else, someone who is perhaps less fortunate than us?

The United States of America is committed to safeguarding the rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," for all of its citizens, regardless of their financial status or physical abilities. While our country has come a long way since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, some aspects of our society continue to demand our concern.

One such area is the treatment of our elderly. While it was traditional in years past for older relatives to live with younger family members, these days, with both parents working outside the home, this can often become quite impossible. True, the government helps aid the elderly through programs such as our Social Security system and Medicare, but today's alternative for caring for aging members of the family who are unable to care for themselves is a nursing, or retirement home. Such places provide a residence for the elderly and take care of their phys-

ical needs. However, even in a "percent world," our government could not possibly be expected to meet the mental or emotional needs of some of our forgotten elderly. But this does not mean that as individuals, we cannot do something.

"N-45!" the director called in the afternoon's first game. "BINGO!" Roy called, his hand shaking slightly. Roy was excited about the bird ornament he won, recalling that "there were lots of birds like this one" back on his farm. He told me about the "special" birdseed he used to but to attract his wife's favorite orioles. As he stared at the little bird ornament, Roy seemed to be reliving happier days gone by. When we got to his room, my new friend showed me his pictures on the wall, unable to identify everyone in them. He talked about his farm and about his grandchildren. He started crying when he explained that he had not seen them in over a year, and they had forgotten his 100th birthday the month before. While I tried to comfort Roy, I began to understand the loneliness that our forgotten elderly must feel every day.

Our government allows us to excel. It gives us priceless freedoms but we cannot abuse them or fail to cherish them. We must give as well as take. We must serve to strengthen society. "A life without service to others is a life not worth living." These words of President Woodrow Wilson illustrate our country's tradition of helping others. People serve our country in many ways. Some hold political office, some devote themselves to teaching or social work. Some volunteer their time helping others through community service. Some give the ultimate service—placing their lives on the line in times of war.

I can still remember Roy's words to me at the end of our visit. "This is so nice that you young people take the time to come out here and spend with us. We don't have a lot to look forward to here, but we love it when you come and visit us. Thank you." I looked at his eyes, old and tired, yet sparkling with something so alive. At that moment my heart glowed with a certain satisfaction to know that I had helped to make someone's day a little bit brighter. My visit had meant a lot to him. I had taken my first step of service to our society.

In the 3 years, since my 1st visit to Mount Carmel to see Roy, I have come to know Alex, Sadie, and Henry. I have shared stories, and pushed wheelchairs and I cherish every moment in this experience.

Andrew Carnegie once said, "All good things start out small." As Americans, we must challenge ourselves to be the best we can. In our "one nation under God," we must do unto others. On the little league sidelines, in soup kitchens, in nursing home BINGO rooms, with our monetary donations to worthy causes, with our well informed votes, and with our lives on the battlefield, if need be, from sea to shining sea we must unite in our commitment to "service to America."

TRIBUTE TO STEVE COURIER ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, since 1993, 11 outstanding labor leaders, individuals who have contributed to organizing, workplace fairness, worker dignity, and the advancement of